

REMARKS

1. Rejected Claims

Claims 1, 5, 11, 16, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in light of Kuroyone (U.S. patent 5,462,424) and the newly cited Biederman et al. reference (U.S. patent publication 2002/0081169). Claims 4, 15 and 25 were rejected as obvious in light of Kuroyone, Biederman et al. and Takahashi et al. (U.S. patent 5,299,351). In response, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 22, 25 and 26 and amend claims 15 and 16 to depend from allowable claim 9.

2. Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 7-10, 18-21 and 28-31 were deemed allowable in the final Office action stated above. Applicants thus request that these allowable claims be passed to issuance with the minor formal matter in claim 18 corrected as stated in applicants' prior response mailed on September 22, 2003.

In light of these amendments, only claims 7-10, 15-16, 18-21 and 28-31 are currently pending. As stated above, claims 7-10, 18-21 and 28-31 were previously deemed allowable and claims 15 and 16 now depend from allowable claim 9. Accordingly, this application is believed to now be in allowable form and applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

3. Time Extension and Fees

Applicants enclose herewith a petition to extend the time for reply by two months, thereby extending the reply due date to December 22, 2003, which is two months after the original three month due date of October 22, 2003 from the July 22, 2003 mailing date of the final Office action. As indicated in the petition, please charge the \$420.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. 17-0055. No other fees are

believed due for consideration of this response, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees deemed necessary to the above deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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